



National Aeronautics and Space Administration
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Inside Wallops

Virginia and Maryland Combine Forces to Operate Commercial Space Flight Facility at Wallops Island

Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner and Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich have announced an agreement to establish the Mid-Atlantic Regional Spaceport (MARS) at the NASA Wallops Flight Facility to strengthen the aerospace industries for both states.

MARS will assimilate the Virginia Space Flight Center (in operation since 1995), and accelerate and enhance its mission to provide low cost, rapid response and frequent re-flight opportunities for small to medium-sized satellites and flight experiments to government, academic, and commercial entities.

FAA, in-place agreements with NASA to occupy and make improvements to Wallops land and facilities, and a contracted orbital launch for the USAF for which additional launch infrastructure is currently under construction.

Additional agreements with NASA have enabled cooperative (Federal/State) development of additional facilities, including a mobile liquid rocket fueling facility and a multi-function processing building.

The MARS facility will address the increasing need for low cost, rapid access to space for small and medium sized payloads, a need that existing launch systems and other space-ports do not fulfill.

The lack of affordable access to space has been identified as one reason that government, academic, and commercial use of low earth orbits has not reached its full potential, and a prime contributor to the loss of U.S. market share

in the commercial launch industry.

MARS will be a non-profit entity dedicated to the active identification, dissemination, integration, and flight demonstration of the best methods and technologies for spaceport operations, and to incorporating them into a customer-oriented, full service spaceport.

Through a strong, bi-state management team and existing agreements and partnerships with NASA, universities, and industry, MARS will be in the unique position to drive the reemergence of the U.S. as the dominant player in the international space market and to support the interests of U.S. space policy.



Photo by Keith Koehler

Construction on Launch Complex O-B on the south end of Wallops Island

"The new mission of this spaceport combines our outstanding Virginia Space Flight Center and facilities, along with the university research and development centers located in our two states, and to have a tremendous impact on the future of our region's aerospace, bioscience, and advanced technology industries," said Governor Warner.

"The MARS facility is a tremendous opportunity to combine the aerospace resources that Maryland and Virginia have to offer – resources that include NASA's Goddard Flight Center, the Wallops Flight Facility, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Patuxent River Naval Air Station," said Governor Ehrlich.

MARS is prepared for its new mission, due in large part to the existence of two operational orbital launch pads developed and owned by Virginia, a Launch Site Operator's License issued by the

Wallops Shorts

In the News

DelMarVaNow

"Space Flight Academy Expands"

Chincoteague Beacon

"Space Flight Academy Expands"

Virginia Pilot

"Governors to Promote Virginia Spaceport"

Daily Times

"Commercial Space Flight Center to be Established"

Richmond Times Dispatch

"Va., Md. To Establish Commercial Space Flight Center"

Baltimore Sun

"Md., Va. Form Regional Spaceport"



Photo by Betty Flowers

On the Road

Jay Savage (left) and Scott Webb (right) NASA Information Services and Advanced Technology Branch, and Betty Flowers, NASA Public Affairs Office participated in a Career Day event at Northampton Middle School on December 2.

Launches

Two NASA Terrier-Black Brant sounding rockets were launches from White Sands Missile Range on December 5. The first carried a payload to obtain immediate, absolute data product of high precision, relative pixel-to-pixel calibration for the SOHO EIT. No data was received due to an apparent problem with the experimenter's filter mechanism. Dr. Daniel Moses, National Research Laboratory, was the principal investigator.

The second mission was to analyze and interpret solar extreme ultra-violet data that will be used to improve global solar atmospheric models. Good data was received. Dr. Darrell Judge, University of Southern California, was the principal investigator.

Bruce Scott, NASA Sounding Rocket Operations Contract, (NSROC), was the Mission Manager for both launches.



**Thrift Savings Plan
Open Season
Ends
December 31**

Portable Electrical Heater Safety by Stan Williams

Are you currently using a portable electric heater in your office or work area? Portable electrical heaters can be dangerous or even deadly. Before using portable electric heaters, know the hazards and how to protect yourself and others.

Electrical space heaters don't have an open flame, but they can burn skin or ignite clothing, draperies, paper, floors, and flammable liquids. Insure a guard is installed around the heating element.

Check the manufacturer's instructions to determine how far the heater should be placed from combustibles and the floor. Check surrounding objects regularly to ensure they are not getting hot.

Power cords should never be run under carpets. Placing anything on top of a cord could result in fire from an overheated cord. Do not use extension cords unless it is absolutely necessary, and make sure it is marked #14 WG or larger.

Do not use a heater when the power plug is hot. Unplug the heater – discontinue use until the heater is repaired or replaced.

Never leave a portable electric heater on and unattended. Unplug the heater cord before leaving the office or work area.

Portable electric heaters manufactured after 1991 include many new performance requirements to enhance safety.

This could be a tip-over switch that will turn the heater off until it is turned upright again and indicator lights to let the user know the heater is plugged in or turned on. Infrared or proximity sensors can turn a heater off when objects are too near.

In accordance with NASA – STD 8719.11, portable electric heaters must be approved for use. Contact Terry Potterton, x1498, for approval or further information.

Warm and Dry for November

by Bob Steiner, Meteorologist

With an average temperature of 53.3 degrees, November was 3.8 degrees warmer than normal. We experienced 20 days with above normal highs and 22 mornings with above normal lows.

The high for the month occurred November 4 with a reading of 79 degrees. The low temperature for November was reached on the 26th when the mercury fell to a chilly 29 degrees. No record temperatures were tied or set during the month.

Measurable precipitation was recorded on six days during November with a total of 1.73 inches - eight days is the norm. As would be expected with such warm temperatures, no snow was observed during the month.

Winds of 29 mph or greater were recorded on 7 days with 47 mph winds recorded at 2:43 p.m. on November 13 being the strongest.

January should begin with high temperatures near 47 degrees and decrease by the middle of the month to 42 degrees before climbing back above 45 degrees by the end of the month. Morning lows begin around 31 degrees and fall to 24 degrees during mid month, then increase to 28 degrees at month's end.

The record high for January is 79 degrees, which was recorded on January 30, 2002. The record low temperature of minus 4 degrees was achieved on January 17, 1965.

January normally brings 10 days with measurable precipitation for a total of 3.21 inches. Expect to receive 2.92 inches of snow falling on 2 days during the month.

With winter well established by January, travel can be an adventure. New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are mostly spent with family and loved ones.

The folks in the WFF Weather Office want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.



Wallops employees are invited to attend the annual Wallops Awards Ceremony on Friday, December 12 at 2 p.m. in Building D-10. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize our co-workers who have achieved 25 or more years of government service as well as those who have received NASA or GSFC Honor Awards or GSFC Awards of Excellence. The "Voices of Wallops" will perform several selections.

Immediately following the Awards Ceremony, employees are invited to the Wallops Holiday Party in Building F-3.

New in the Exchange

The Wallops Exchange and Morale Association recently sponsored a book signing featuring local authors, Jennifer Cording, David and Lenore Payne, Shirley Taylor and Patsy Young.

Chincoteague Revisited records essays by Jennifer Cording about the Island and features photographs by Dorothy Camagna of the landscapes, people, and wildlife.

Lenore Hart Poyer has captured the harsh life of watermen in her novel, **Waterwoman**, set on Virginia's Eastern Shore in the early 1900's.

David Poyer's latest books, **Fire on the Waters** and **A Country of Our Own**, capture the uncertainty and exaltation of little-known campaigns at sea during the Civil War.

Shirley Taylor captures the essence of Patsy Young in **Tangier Island Girl I and II** as she relates stories of the scamp's youth on Tangier.

Visit the WEMA Exchange Store, Building E-2, and get your copies today!

Children's Holiday Party

6 to 9 p.m.
December 18
Building F-3

The event is for children between ages 5-16 who are sponsored by any Wallops Exchange and Morale Association member. To register your child(ren), call Rebecca Beach, x1559; Sandra Banks, x2526; David Smith, x1316; or Karen Lewis, x2163 prior to December 15.

For Sale

2002 Ford Windstar SE Mini-Van. White w/Gray interior - Excellent Condition. 32,700 miles, CD player - Asking \$17,750 or best offer. Call (757) 787-7290 after 5:30 p.m.

Thanks

The McIntosh family would like to thank everyone for donations to Sparky's cancer fund.

Correction

A recent "Inside Wallops" identified Doug Voss as working in the NASA Safety Office. He is in the Range and Mission Management Office.

Inside Wallops is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: www.wff.nasa.gov

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